

Volunteer Vibes - *Volunteers play many crucial roles at the Preserve. They maintain trails, welcome visitors, conduct research, educate youth groups, support special events, beautify our gardens, capture breathtaking photography, and much more, contributing their time, talents, and thousands of volunteer hours annually. We will be regularly featuring our volunteers in Talus Talk so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!*

Linda Shekita

Where did you grow up?

Growing up in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, I spent many days as a teen hiking all over Ulster County. For some reason, we preferred hiking across the bridge, "on the other side of the river."

What is your volunteer role(s) here at Mohonk Preserve?

At Mohonk Preserve, I am part of a group called the Trail Builders. We specialize in stonework. Our first job was to remediate the Connectors Trail, outside the visitor's center. Now we are working on a new trail near Coxing Trailhead.

Why did you decide to volunteer your time and talents at Mohonk Preserve?

After retirement, I became involved with two volunteer groups. One is the Jolly Rovers Trail Crew. I also became involved with the Trail Keepers here at the Preserve. Shortly after, my partner and I started the Trail Builders here.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

Every day of trail building gives me a great sense of accomplishment. On June 11, the Trail Builders built a crib wall and set one step! At 65, I am very thankful that I have the physical strength to do this work. It is challenging but rewarding.

Where is your favorite place/trail on the Preserve and why is it your favorite?

Duck Pond is one of my favorite places on the Preserve. Early in my career, I taught 3rd grade in New Paltz. We took our classes there every year for a field trip. It was one of my favorite days of teaching and brings back many joyful memories!



Linda Shekita volunteering with the Preserve's Trail Builders
Photo by Christopher Hoey